

January 28, 2021

My name is Karmen Siirtola. I am a co-vice chair for District 31 in Mandan.

I am in support of a Convention of States for many reasons. Now, more than ever, we see our individual rights, as well as livelihoods, being dictated and taken from us by a federal government that is out of control. We have become not only dependent, but it seems more like desperate, to cower to Washington or “lose funding.” As a proud North Dakotan testifying to a room of legislators whom I believe share that proud heritage, I believe we must take our rights and the power of our state legislature, counties, cities, towns, and families back to more local control of our time, talent, and treasure.

The Convention of States will address several key areas and are not allowed to deviate from these specified areas:

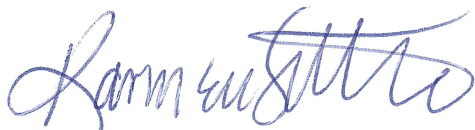
1. The public debt shall not be increased except upon a super majority vote in Congress.
2. Term limits on Members of Congress.
3. Limiting federal overreach by restoring the Commerce Clause to its original meaning.
4. Limiting the power of federal regulations by allowing for a congressional override.
5. Requiring a super majority of Congress to increase federal taxes and repealing the 16th Amendment.
6. Giving the states (by a 3/5ths vote) the power to abrogate any federal law, regulation, or executive order.

Thirty-four state legislatures need to agree to calling a convention for one to even take place. Once it has occurred, three-fourths of states in the nation have to approve of the amendments passed at the convention in order for them to be implemented—leaving no room for a “runaway convention.”

Our founders were brilliant by including the right of citizens to petition their government (Article V) if a time came when that government had overreached and abused its power. That time has come.

As a state, we need to step up now. Before we have nothing left to give our children and grandchildren except stories of what it was like when we had a state that governed itself, without the federal government deciding what we could and couldn't do, based on the power of an overreaching federal system as well as their power of the purse. The Convention of States is the avenue we still have that can enable us to live out our constitutional rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

I recommend a DO NOT PASS on this action to rescind SCR 4004.



Karmen Siirtola